

THEME 6

CELEBRATING CULTURE & HERITAGE

HRM is home to diverse cultures and histories that are expressed in many ways. Tangible assets, such as heritage buildings and sites, speak to the evolution of the community over time, while intangible assets, such as events, provide an opportunity to preserve and foster living traditions. Sharing Our Stories will provide a regional approach to the preservation of these heritage and cultural resources, which will be reflected in the Regional Plan review.



SHARING OUR STORIES

In 2014, the Regional Plan called for HRM to adopt a Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan, now called [Sharing Our Stories](#), to be used to inform and determine priorities for culture and heritage programs and policy. [Sharing Our Stories](#) will provide direction for the Municipality to support culture, arts and heritage with specific attention to celebrating under-represented communities from across the municipality. The broad goals of [Sharing Our Stories](#) are to Express Culture through Place, Support Cultural Capacity and Value Creativity. The plan has also identified the following draft pillars:

Stewardship: Nurturing our cultural resources, maintaining them, protecting, and renewing them

Connection: Recognizing and valuing the unique yet often underrepresented or untold stories and histories within our region

Celebration: Supporting all people that live here, including newcomers, and people of all ages, abilities, cultural heritage, and interests

Access: Providing opportunities for everyone to participate and enjoy culture and heritage

As of July 2020, community and stakeholder engagement for [Sharing Our Stories](#) was been placed on hold due to the ongoing pandemic.

This engagement resumed in early 2021. It is anticipated that the completion of the plan would coincide with the final phases of the Regional Plan Review.

THE REGIONAL PLAN REVIEW WILL:

6.1 Incorporate the recommendations of the final Sharing Our Stories Plan into the Regional Plan, with a particular focus on initiatives that share and celebrate a more diverse range of stories.

CULTURE & HERITAGE RESOURCES

Currently, in order to incentivize the registration and conservation of heritage buildings, some of HRM's secondary planning strategies allow owners of registered heritage properties to request additional development rights using a Development Agreement. To allow registered heritage property owners across the municipality to have this opportunity, direction will be included in the Regional Plan to direct all secondary planning strategies to include a standardized Heritage Development Agreement policy.

Registered heritage properties play an important role in defining the character and identity of communities. New development on a registered heritage property must be carefully designed to ensure that it does not have a negative impact on its heritage value. Currently, some secondary planning strategies contain policies to ensure that new development in a heritage context is sensitive to the heritage character of the property and area. Region-wide heritage policies will be reviewed to determine if the direction provided to guide sensitive redevelopment on municipally registered heritage properties can be applied across the municipality.

THE REGIONAL PLAN REVIEW WILL:

6.2 Amend the Regional Plan to provide Heritage Development Agreement policies that will guide sensitive redevelopment of municipally registered properties and encourage their continued preservation.

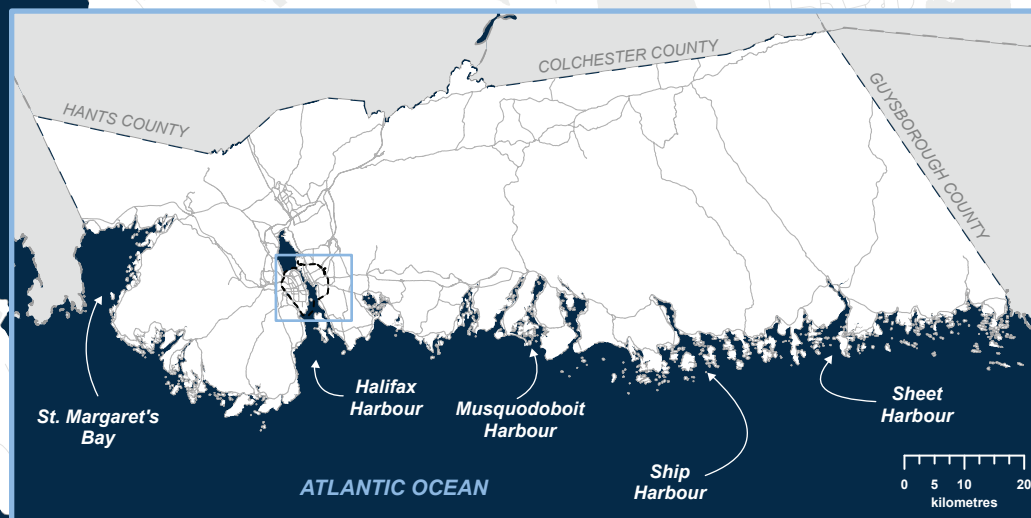
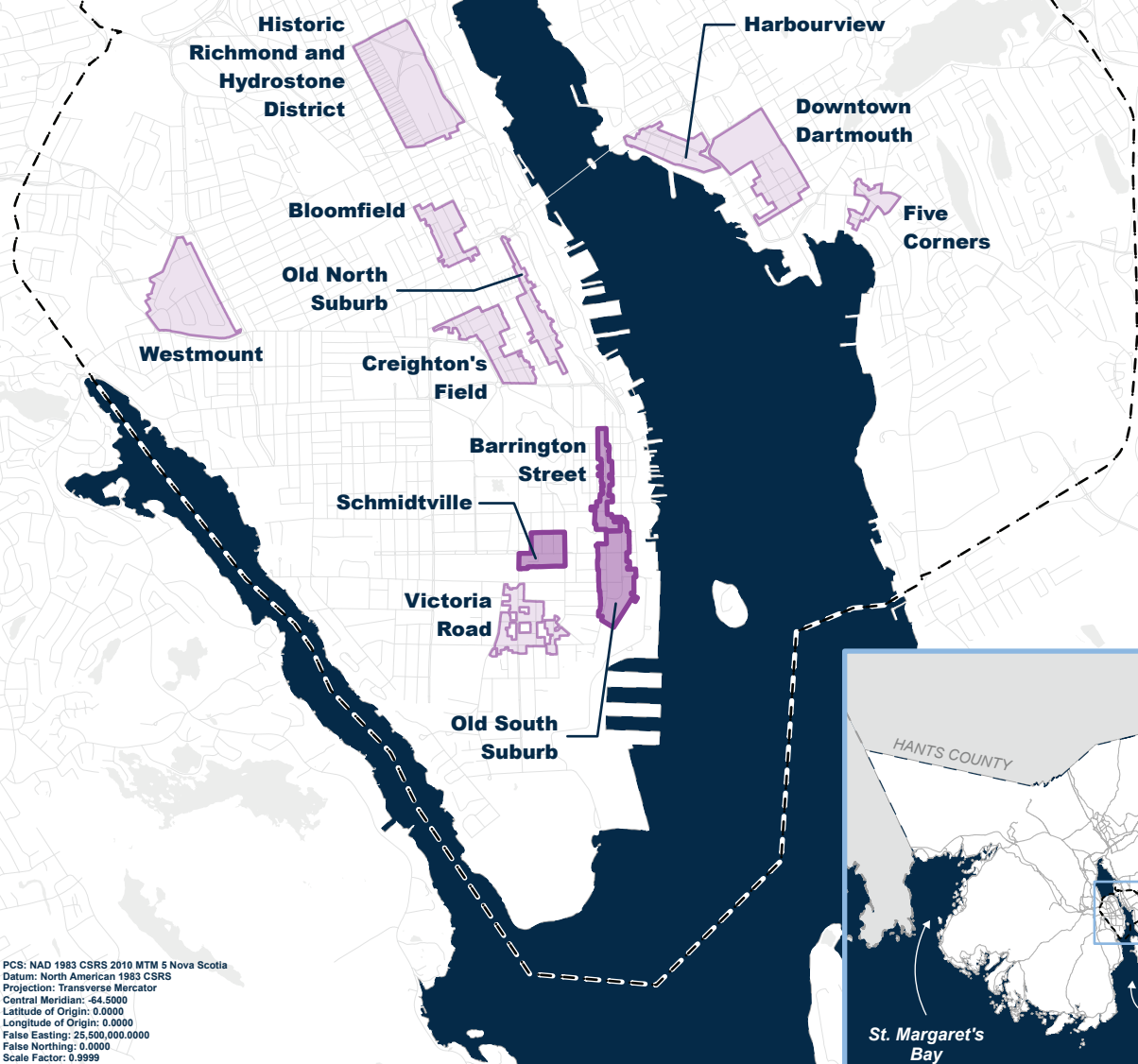
6.3 Review Regional Plan Policy CH-16 to provide additional direction for new development in a heritage context in secondary planning strategies, including the following considerations:

- **Architectural compatibility and subordination;**
- **Building scale, massing and design;**
- **Transition;**
- **Shadow impacts;**
- **Impacts on the integrity of nearby heritage properties and streetscapes; and**
- **The assessment and preservation of any unregistered structures for their heritage value, if deemed necessary.**



Heritage Conservation Districts (Package A)

- In Effect
- Proposed
- Regional Centre



PCS: NAD 1983 CSRS 2010 MTM 5 Nova Scotia
 Datum: North American 1983 CSRS
 Projection: Transverse Mercator
 Central Meridian: -64.5000
 Latitude of Origin: 0.0000
 Longitude of Origin: 0.0000
 False Easting: 25,500,000.0000
 False Northing: 0.0000
 Scale Factor: 0.9999
 Map Units: Metre

Map created by Halifax Regional Municipality Research & Data Group.

The following is a graphical representation and although care has been taken to ensure the best possible quality, HRM does not guarantee the accuracy of this document.



HERITAGE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Heritage Conservation Districts (HCDs) are urban or rural areas of historic or architectural value. HCDs are defined by the Heritage Property Act and established using a conservation plan and by-law, which govern demolition, exterior alterations and new development. Staff have worked to revise and simplify the Municipality's approach to the creation of HCDs. There are currently three HCDs in HRM: Barrington Street, Schmidtville and the Old South Suburb.

The Centre Plan currently identifies nine potential HCDs in the Regional Centre, with three additional HCDs proposed for Package B. The establishment of HCD policy for each of these areas has been prioritized by Council using the following criteria:

- Areas that include a high concentration of registered heritage properties;
- Areas that include rare examples of historic architecture;
- Areas that are experiencing a high rate of change based on development permit activity in the past five years; and
- Areas that include the potential for large-scale redevelopment as a result of their current land use designation.

The 2014 Regional Plan supports the creation of HCDs across the municipality. The approach

to the identification and prioritization of HCDs used in the Regional Centre will be studied further as part of [Sharing Our Stories](#) to guide how the Municipality creates HCDs at a regional scale.

Additionally, as the number of HCDs increases, more private property owners will be required to protect their properties. Therefore, options for additional HCD incentives programs should be explored to help support their maintenance and restoration.

THE REGIONAL PLAN REVIEW WILL:

6.4 Use the recommendations of Sharing Our Stories to review and enhance policies related to the creation of future Heritage Conservation Districts and the identification of additional future Heritage Conservation Districts by:

- **Updating policy to reflect the Heritage Conservation District Adoption Process approved by Regional Council at their November 17, 2020 meeting;**
- **Considering the Heritage Conservation District Prioritization Methodology and Evaluation approved by Regional Council at their November 17, 2020 meeting as a standard methodology moving forward; and**
- **Incorporating any additional HCD policy considerations identified by Sharing Our Stories**

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

Cultural Landscapes are distinct geographical areas representing the combined influences of nature and people over time. The Heritage Property Act identifies these areas for potential formal designation, which would offer protection similar to a Heritage Conservation District. However, the Government of Nova Scotia has not yet created regulations that allow municipalities to designate areas as Cultural Landscapes at this time. HRM will continue to work with the Province to support the development of these regulations and consider any work at the municipal level that would be required to enable HRM to designate cultural landscapes when the Provincial regulations are adopted.

In the meantime, the Municipality has worked to identify, preserve and commemorate cultural landscapes. This has included the completion of the [Cultural Landscape Framework Study](#), which established a process for the evaluation of cultural landscapes and began to identify potential sites.

The Municipality has developed policies at the secondary planning level to identify and preserve areas of cultural significance identified through the Green Network Plan. For example, the Regional Centre Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy also identifies a number of future potential cultural landscapes which may be considered for formal designation once the necessary legislation is in place.

The approach to identifying, prioritizing and designating future cultural landscapes will be developed following the completion of [Sharing Our Stories](#) to ensure that it reflects the diverse evolution, heritage and culture of the region.

THE REGIONAL PLAN REVIEW WILL:

6.5 Use the recommendations of Sharing Our Stories and the Halifax Green Network Plan to direct how the Municipality will collaborate with residents and stakeholders to identify, prioritize and protect potential cultural landscapes, and continue to work with the Province to support the development of regulations for cultural landscapes under the Heritage Property Act.